

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAPLES 00664 190827Z

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SUBJECT; REGIONAL ELECTION RESULTS IN NAPLES CONSULAR DISTRICT

1. REGIONAL ELECTION RETURNS IN THE FOUR REGIONS OF THE NAPLES CONSULAR DISTRICT (CAMPANIA, PUGLIA, BASILICATA AND CALABRIA) RESULTED IN A NOTICEABLE INCREASE IN THE PCI VOTE, ALTHOUGH GENERALLY BELOW THE NATIONAL AVERAGE. THE LARGEST INCREASE WAS IN CAMPANIA WHERE THE PCI TOOK 27.1 PER CENT OF THE VOTE, A GAIN OF 4.4 PER CENT

PAGE 2 RUFLSKA7285 UNCLAS NAPLES 664

OVER THE 1972 PERCENTAGE OF 22.7 PER CENT. IN PUGLIA THE PCI POLLED 2.8 POINTS HIGHER THAN IN 1972 (1975 VOTE: 28.5 PER CENT) WHILE COMMUNISTS IN BASILICATA INCREASED THEIR VOTE 2.2 POINTS TO 27.2 PER CENT. THE ONLY EXCEPTION TO THE GENERAL PCI ADVANCE IN THE SOUTH WAS IN CALABRIA WHERE THE COMMUNISTS SUFFERED A DECREASE OF 0.7 POINTS TO 25.2 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL VOTE.

2. THE DC HELD LOSSES DOWN BY ATTRACTING VOTES FROM THE RIGHT TO MAKE UP FOR LOSSES TO THE SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS. WITH THE EXCEP-
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PAGE 02 NAPLES 00664 190827Z

TION OF THE PLI INCREASE OF 0.7 POINTS (TO 2.1 PER CENT) IN BASILI-

CATA, PLI AND MSI/DN PERCENTAGES DECREASED FROM THE 1972 LEVELS IN ALL FOUR REGIONS. IN CAMPANIA THE DC LOSS WAS ONLY 2.5 POINTS (1975: 36.7 PER CENT; 1972: 39.2 PER CENT). IN PUGLIA DC LOSSES AMOUNTED TO 2.4 POINTS (1975: 39.2 PER CENT; 1972: 41.6 PER CENT). IN BASILICATA THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS LOST 7.3 PER CENT VERSUS 1972 BUT ONLY 0.5 PER CENT VERSUS 1970 (1975 VOTE: 41.9 PER CENT), SO THAT ONLY ONE REGIONAL COUNCIL SEAT WAS LOST. IN CALABRIA THE DC VOTE (39.5 PER CENT) REMAINED VIRTUALLY STABLE WITH A 0.4 PER CENT INCREASE AS COMPARED WITH 1972 RESULTS AND A 0.2 PER CENT DECREASE AS COMPARED WITH 1970 RESULTS. CHANGES IN REPRESENTATION ON THE REGIONAL COUNCILS WERE SMALL BUT PORTEND GREAT DIFFICULTIES

PAGE 3 RUFLSKA7285 UNCLAS NAPLES 664

IN THE FORMATION OF REGIONAL GIUNTAS. IN ALL FOUR REGIONS, THE ONLY FORM OF GOVERNMENT MATHEMATICALLY POSSIBLE IS THE "ORGANIC" CENTER-LEFT (DC-PRI-PSDI PSI). THEREFORE, THE PSI IS IN AN EXTREMELY STRONG POSITION TO PRESS FOR GREATER POWER IN POLICY-MAKING AND A LARGER SLICE OF THE SOTTOGOVERNO. GIVEN THE TENSIONS WITHIN THE CENTER-LEFT COALITION PRIOR TO THE ELECTIONS, THE STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE OF THE SOCIALISTS INDICATES A PERIOD OF DIFFICULT MANEUVERINGS BEFORE GIUNTAS ARE FORMED. THE END RESULT WILL BE WEAKER AND GENERALLY UNSTABLE REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS THROUGHOUT THE SOUTH.

3. IN THE CITY OF NAPLES THE OUTLOOK IS EVEN BLEAKER. THE PCI INCREASED ITS VOTE FROM 26 PER CENT IN 1970 (27.8 PER CENT IN 1972) TO 32.4 PER CENT, THUS BECOMING THE PARTY OF RELATIVE MAJORITY. THE COMMUNISTS NOW CONTROL 27 OF THE 80 CITY COUNCIL SEATS. THE SOCIALISTS LOST ONE SEAT AND NOW CONTROL FIVE. THE DC REPRESENTATION WENT DOWN FROM 28 TO 24 SEATS. THE RESULT IS THAT NEITHER AN "ORGANIC" CENTER-LEFT COALITION (36 OF 80 SEATS) NOR A FRONTIST PCI-PSI COALITION (32 OF 80 SEATS) IS POSSIBLE. THE CITY SHOULD THEREFORE END UP WITH A "COMMISSARIATO" ADMINISTRATION. COLANTONIO

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